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P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA, 22313 on September 22, 2003

by Michelle Ludwig

(awy Date)

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED MAY 21, 2003

Commissioner of Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Amendment and Response is filed in response to the Final Office Action dated 21 May 2003 and in connection with the accompanying request for continued examination (RCE). The claims have been amended and the current status of the pending claims is set forth in the following section. Remarks in response to the rejections presented in the Final Office Action follow the claim status.

In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. A request for a one-month extension of time extending the due date for this response from August 21, 2003 to September 21, 2003 is submitted herewith. If any fees under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 are required in the present application, including any fees for extensions of time, authorization to charge such fees is given in the accompanying transmittal letter.

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